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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 29, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES F. BASS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

May they be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this place. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work and to contribute to the common good. May they use their talents as good stewards of Your many gifts and thereby be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

Give each Member clarity of thought and purity of motive so that they may render their service as their best selves.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HARTZLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

VOICE OF TEXAS, KARINA GARDUNO

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, I visited Hargrave High School in Huffman, Texas. Students at this school come from hardworking, rural, lower-middle class families. I met with 400 seniors, and almost every one of them had a job. I was impressed by their intelligent questions about government and the state of this country.

One student, Karina Garduno, asked me this:

Why should those of us that work hard have to sacrifice our tax dollars for free handouts to potheads and others that are too lazy to work? This has nothing to do with being black, brown or white, because I'm Hispanic. They should be made to try harder to find work and submit to drug testing to qualify for this money.

Mr. Speaker, Karina and several other students remember the concept many people have forgotten—personal responsibility. The American Dream means that if you work hard, you can do anything in this country. And it's the individual, not the Federal Government, who controls our future. Young people must know that hard work still pays off because it is the American way.

And that's just the way it is.

A BALANCED DEFICIT-REDUCING BUDGET

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a 10-year, \$4 trillion deficit-reduction plan that is both balanced and comprehensive. In the Congress today, there is now broad support in both parties from both Chambers to reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion over 10 years. That's the goal set by the President's deficit reduction commission.

Today, we will consider a number of budget proposals for fiscal year 2013. None of them is perfect, but it is critical that we come together behind a reasonable 10-year, \$4 trillion framework and start working on the details. Time is running out to fix this critical problem.

I believe the Van Hollen and the Cooper-LaTourette proposals are both frameworks that deserve support and consideration. Both of them are balanced and fair. They include revenue increases and spending cuts, and they don't undermine the fragile economic recovery in the short term.

Progress is difficult, and today's budget votes are only the first step. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this difficult task.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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